

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 93-318-C - ORDER NO. 93-597

JULY 1, 1993

IN RE: Application of Coin Telephones, Inc. and) ORDER
Talton Carolina, Inc. to Transfer Authority) APPROVING
to provide Inmate Telephone Services from) TRANSFER
Coin Telephones, Inc. to Talton Carolina,)
Inc.)

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the June 2, 1993 Joint Petition of Coin Telephones, Inc. (CTI) and Talton Carolina, Inc. (Talton) (jointly known as the Companies) for approval to transfer the COCOT authority and authority to provide automated collect-only local, intraLATA, and interLATA inmate telephone services from Coin Telephones, Inc. to Talton Carolina, Inc.

By letter dated June 2, 1993, the Commission's Executive Director instructed the Companies to publish a prepared Notice of Filing, one time, in a newspaper of general circulation, in the area affected by the Companies' Application. The Notice of Filing indicated the nature of the Companies' Application and advised all interested parties of the manner and time in which to file appropriate pleadings. The Companies submitted affidavits indicating that they had complied with these instructions. No Petitions to Intervene or Protests were received.

In their Application, the Companies requested that the Commission rule on this matter, based on the Application submitted to the Commission, and any other accompanying documents submitted. The Companies have submitted the sworn testimony of Julius E. Talton, the President of Talton Telecommunications Corporation and Talton Carolina, Inc. Considering the fact that no Petitions to Intervene were received nor Protests received, the Commission grants the motion to rule, based on documents received herein, and hereby holds that it shall dispense with a hearing.

The direct sworn testimony of Julius Talton is revealing. Accordingly to Talton, Coin Telephones, Inc. is a privately-held North Carolina corporation, authorized to do business in South Carolina. It was granted certification to provide COCOT service in August of 1986 through Commission Order No. 86-853, and granted a waiver of certain COCOT requirements in November 1989 through Commission Order No. 89-1025. Further, on March 4, 1991, in Docket No. 90-305-C, Order No. 91-122, the Commission granted CTI a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide inmate telephone service. CTI was one of the two initial inmate telephone service providers to receive authority in South Carolina. It currently provides inmate telephone services in Lexington, York, Saluda, Lancaster, Kershaw, Chester, Sumter, and Fairfield Counties in South Carolina. It also provides inmate telephone service in North Carolina.

Further, Talton Carolina, Inc. is a privately-held corporation incorporated in the State of Alabama, and is a

wholly-owned subsidiary of Talton Communications Corporation. Talton Communications Corporation was founded in 1973. When it first went into business, Talton was involved in the provision of paging and mobile telephone service in and around the Selma, Alabama area. Around 1977, Talton began to vend and install business telephone systems. Talton began to provide payphone service in Alabama around 1987. Talton currently provides coin service through over 450 payphones. Talton began to provide inmate telephone services in 1990. Since that time, its business has expanded and it currently serves over 115 confinement and detention-type facilities. In Alabama, Talton provides inmate telephone service to fifty-nine (59) of the sixty-seven (67) county confinement facilities, two (2) State prisons, and several work release and youth detention centers. Talton also provides inmate telephone services to forty-four (44) of the eighty-two (82) county jails in the State of Mississippi, as well as the 750 bed South Mississippi Correctional Facility.

According to Talton, both CTI and Talton provide inmate telephone services exclusively through use of the automated, collect-only store and forward technology of the Intellicall inmate telephone system. Since both Companies use identical systems, if granted a Certificate, Talton's experience in maintenance and upkeep will easily be transferred to CTI's South Carolina operations. CTI currently services inmate facilities in South Carolina housing approximately 3,800 inmates, and provides a total of 320 telephones to these facilities.

According to the testimony, Talton has sufficient financial resources to provide the proposed service properly and continuously. Further, Talton agrees to provide and market inmate telephone services and COCOT services in South Carolina only in accordance with current Commission policies. In addition, Talton intends to provide, if granted a Certificate, all inmate telephone services pursuant to the rules, regulations, rates and charges that are set forth in CTI's tariff which is currently on file with the Commission.

The Commission has examined this matter, finds Talton's testimony credible, and believes that the transfer is in the public interest. The evidence shows that Talton is fit, willing, and able to provide COCOT services to inmate facilities through years of experience, and has adequate financial means to do so.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:


1. The Joint Petition of CTI and Talton for approval to transfer the COCOT authority and authority to provide automated collect-only local, intraLATA and interLATA inmate telephone services from Coin Telephones, Inc. to Talton Carolina, Inc. is hereby granted.

2. That Talton shall provide services under the tariff provisions currently approved for CTI.

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3. That this Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Deputy Executive Director

(SEAL)